

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJ: FEBRUARY 8-14 CYPRUS PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

SUMMARY: WEEK BEGAN WITH SOME SEMBLANCE OF PRE-JULY STYLE, INCLUDING INTRACOMMUNAL BICKERING AND UNJUSTIFIED OPTIMISM RE FUTURE ON GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE. HOWEVER, TURKISH CYPRIOT DECLARATION OF "FEDERATED TURKISH CYPRIOT STATE" ON FEBRUARY 13 BROUGHT SITUATION BACK TO RECENT NORMAL.

1. FEB. 13/14 PRESS SELF-CONGRATULATORY OVER SUBMISSION OF CLERIDES' WRITTEN PROPOSALS TO DENKTASH. PARADOXICALLY, STEP WAS SEEN AS COUNTER-OFFENSIVE TO TURKISH CYPRIOT STALLING YET THERE WAS LITTLE OPTIMISM CONCERNING TURKISH ATTITUDE. DENKTASH'S
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REFUSAL TO ATTEND MEETING AND SUBSEQUENT CRITICISM OF CLERIDES'

PROPOSALS DREW SHARP EDITORIAL COMMENT. ALL PAPERS PRAISED KARAMANLIS' FD47-46 10 POLICY STATEMENT AS MORALE BOOSTER AND STRONG REBUKE TO TURKS IN NAME OF GREEK HONOR.

2. FOR FIRST TIME SINCE BEFORE JULY COUP THERE WAS DAILY AND ACRIMONIOUS DEBATE BETWEEN LEFT AND RIGHT WING GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS. COMMUNIST HARAVGI AND RADICAL TA NEA ALLEGED NEW RIGHT WING "PUTCHIST" GROUPS FORMING WITH HELP OF CIA, CHARGING THAT THESE "CRIMINAL ELEMENTS WHICH MURDERED THEIR SONS IN COLD BLOOD" WERE MOVING FREELY IN SOCIETY AND PLOTTING NEW ASSASSINATIONS. RIGHT WING PRESS COUNTERED THAT THESE ATTACKS WERE ATTEMPTS TO DISTRACT PEOPLE FROM MULTIPLE PROBLEMS ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS UNABLE TO SOLVE.

3. RUMORS OF RENEWED U.S./USSR INTEREST IN CYPRUS PROBLEM BLOSSOMED WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY IN BOTH LEFTIST AND RIGHTIST PRESS AS WEEK PROGRESSED BUT WITH DARK WARNINGS THAT U.S. WOULD PROBABLY TORPEDO REAL PROGRESS. BY FEBRUARY 14 EVEN COMMUNIST HARAVGI ADMITTED JOINT VENTURE BOTH POSSIBLE AND DESIRABLE. HOWEVER, SAME EDITION CARRIED DIATRIBE AGAINST KISSINGER, THE "WIZARD" OF AMERICAN DIPLOMACY, HEAD OF CIA, WHO THINKS FIRST OF PENTAGON STRATEGY PLANS AND, WHO HAS "ARDENT DESIRE TO TURN CYPRUS INTO A MAJOR U.S. SPY BASE" AND STAGING AREA FOR STRIKES AT ARAB OIL FIELDS.

4. WEEK'S MAJOR STORY, THE TURKISH CYPRIOT DECLARATION OF A FEDERATED TURKISH CYPRIOT STATE, WAS HEADLINED FEBRUARY 14 BY ALL CYPRIOT PAPERS. MOST STORIES WERE FACTUAL, DETAILING IMMEDIATE GREEK CYPRIOT REACTION WITH GOVERNMENT LEADERS QUICKLY LEAVING FOR GREECE AND SECURITY COUNCIL. RIGHTIST ETHNIKI WAS MAJOR EXCEPTION, HEADLINING "ANGLO-AMERICANS PARTITION CYPRUS." THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE GREEK CYPRIOT EDITORIAL OPINION BUT POST EXPECTS WEEK-END PRESS TO COVER SUBJECT MORE FULLY. CRAWFORD

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